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WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 18, 1954

We left this morning by plane for Brussels. Phil Sprouse met us at the airport and I went around to the Embassy and talked to Fred Alger, who had returned this morning from the United States.

Tommy and I lunched with Spaak and André de Staercke at the Carlton. We had two bottles of champagne together, and got through a lot of talk. Spaak finds the French Protocol entirely unacceptable, and drafted last night a declaration that he thinks might be substituted for it. It would be of a face-saving nature for the French and would carry out what Adenauer once suggested, that is, an agreement by the Ministers to meet, under the amendment process provided for by the Treaty itself, and consider, after ratification of the Treaty by all concerned, any French proposals.

Spaak went off to meet Mendès at the railroad station and we remained behind to talk over certain changes in this draft. Our conversation was reported in the following abbreviated telegram from Brussels:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81
XDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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"FROM: BRUSSELS.

"ACTION: WASHINGTON.

"INFO: PARIS 42, August 18, 6 PM.

"SENT DEPT 128 RPTD INFO PARIS 42, LONDON 17, ROME 7, THE HAGUE 7, BONN 17, LUXEMBOURG 7.

"PARIS PASS BRUCE.

"1. Spaak and de Staercke reviewed with Bruce and Tomlinson today at lunch their tentative views on procedure to be followed at conference. Mendès-France would be asked to speak first. In accordance conversation with French Ambassador at Brussels, Spaak expects Mendès to attempt to defend proposals as being within framework of treaty and as not requiring new parliamentary action in other EDC countries. Tentative procedural plan is that Spaak would then call on Beyen to

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speak. (Chancellor had proposed this in order to avoid putting Germany in lead position in refusing French proposals and in conversation with Beyen in The Hague last night he agreed to do this.) After other ministers had expressed views, Spaak as chairman would conclude. Purpose of first session would be to make clear 2 points.

"(A) Under no circumstances can other EDC nations agree to any suggestions which would even risk new parliamentary action in their countries.

"(B) French proposals involve such risk and therefore suggested French protocol cannot be accepted even as a basis for discussion.

"Spaak would then ask for recess to see if some other basis of discussion might be found.

"2. Spaak reviewed a paper he had hurriedly drafted early this morning that he might bring forward at second session. He stated that any form of protocol is out of question because protocol would require new action in parliaments. He suggests a draft declaration by the six governments. This draft recalls that France initiated the EDC, that France had obtained a number of interpretative protocols after signature, that France had obtained agreement of partners to a certain number of prior conditions, that France still faced difficulties in ratification and this was reason EDC countries were meeting at Brussels. Draft declaration then takes up nine points in French document stating that six governments agree to call a conference as soon as EDC Treaty goes into effect in order to have Council of Ministers put these suggestions into consultations with Dutch and German legal experts. He promised us copy of declaration as soon as Spaak is satisfied with it. Spaak's suggested declaration is in line with ideas of Dutch and Germans to do everything reasonable for Mendès within framework of treaty.

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"3. Spaak is meeting with Mendès this afternoon and probably later with Chancellor and Mendès because Chancellor does not wish to see Mendès alone. Spaak believes it will be most unfortunate if Mendès raises question of Saar and Moselle canal with Chancellor at this stage, particularly when Mendès proposal on article 38 does away with basis of Saar agreement. Spaak repeatedly expressed his irritation with British statements that Mendès document did not appear to be in conflict with EDC Treaty and that it could be used as basis for discussion. ALGER."

Tommy remained in Belgium, and I took the 6:40 train to Paris. E. met me at the station and we picked up Audrey and Eugénie at the Café de la Paix.

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